

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method for treating sensorineural hearing loss or a vestibular disorder ~~an inner ear disorder~~ of a subject comprising administering to a subject in need thereof ~~an anti-interleukin-6 (anti-IL-6) receptor antibody~~ to a subject in need thereof, wherein the ~~anti-IL-6 receptor antibody binds to an IL-6 receptor, blocks signal transduction by IL-6 and inhibits the biological activity of IL-6~~ an antibody selected from the group consisting of a PM-1 antibody and an MR16-1 antibody;

wherein said administration is effective for treating sensorineural hearing loss or a vestibular disorder in said subject.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[32]] 31 wherein said sensorineural hearing loss is sensorineural hearing loss caused by Meniere's disease, drug-induced inner ear disorders, viral inner ear disorders, purulent inner ear disorders, temporal bone fracture or acoustic nerve tumor.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[32]] 31 wherein said sensorineural hearing loss is sudden deafness, senile deafness or noise deafness.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[35]] 31 wherein said vestibular disorder is caused by Meniere's disease, vestibular neuronitis or is a drug-induced inner ear disorder.

37-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[37]] 31 wherein said antibody is a recombinant antibody.

42. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[39]] 31 wherein said monoclonal antibody is a PM-1 antibody.

43. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[40]] 31 wherein said monoclonal antibody is an MR16-1 antibody.

44. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[37]] 31 wherein said antibody is a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, or a human antibody ~~against IL-6 receptor.~~

45. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[44]] 31 wherein said humanized antibody is a humanized PM-1 antibody.